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697

THE
CORONET

TO-NIGHT

TO-NIGHT

at 5.15 & 9.15 p.m.

"THE ADOPTED SON"

(in 6 parts).

THE PEST.

at 7.15 p.m.

"THE BULL'S EYE"

Episodes 8, 9 & 10.

Booking for 9.15 p.m. at ROBINSON'S.

MR. ASQUITH AND FREE
TRADE.

CAMPAIGN REOPENED.

EMPIRE AND PREFERENCE.

In the Victoria Hall, Leeds, on June 29th, Mr. Asquith addressed a meeting arranged by the National Liberal Federation for the purpose of re-opening the Free Trade campaign. When Mr. and Mrs. Asquith appeared they received an ovation from between two and three thousand people.

Mr. Asquith said: It may be asked, why are we here to-night re-opening the Free Trade campaign? Is it alleged that the Free Trade system under which our finances have been carried on now for seventy years has broken either in peace or in war? In peace it enabled us to build up a commercial and financial ascendancy which no protectionist nation can dispute or challenge; and when we came, as we did five years ago, to a new and a supreme test, the test of war—the greatest, the most momentous, the most critical war in the history of mankind—how did our Free Trade system bear the strain? I will not, by way of answer to that question, give the testimony, for it might seem to be biased or partial, of any Free Trade authority, but I will quote to you the language which was used only three or four days ago in the City of London at a meeting held to float, with the success which we all hope it will meet with, the new Victory Loan, the language not of a partial or prejudiced critic, but the language of the present Chancellor of the Exchequer. This is what he said: "I ask you to remember that every financial effort, every financial sacrifice that we made during those years of war have lightened the burden for us to-day, that we stand among all the nations who entered the war at the beginning in a position of unrivalled credit and unrivalled financial stability and order." (Cheers.)

It is very difficult in the face of testimony like that to make anything in the nature of a direct attack upon our system of Free Trade. But there are dangers and there are perils to Free Trade which we ought to be guard ourselves against and to frustrate. The first, and perhaps that which excites the most public attention and interest, is to be found in the so-called preference proposals of the Budget of the present year. Those proposals, as you are well aware, not only give preferential treatment to duties which have long formed, and indeed have become a permanent part of our fiscal system, but they extend the alleged preference to the new duties in certain classes of manufactured goods to be imposed for war purposes only which are to be retained at any rate for a time, and no other purposes that we can conceive or anybody can devise except as a pretext for extending the area of preference. It is quite true that all these duties, new or old, are relatively insignificant, and that the so-called preference would be found in practice to be almost if not altogether nugatory.

Let me give you two illustrations. Take the tea duty. Ninety per cent, ninety-nine of the tea which we import, and practically the whole of the tea which is consumed by the great mass of our population, is already grown within the confines of the British Empire. To give a preference to Imperially-grown tea as against tea which comes from foreign sources is little less than an imposture. It, in fact, amounts to nothing more or less than taking off the tea duty, a very excellent thing to do, subject to two conditions, first, that you do it straight-forwardly, and next, that your revenue could afford it. But you are sacrificing two millions, say, nearly two millions and a half, of annual revenue in what is really a reduction of the tea duty in the guise and pretext of giving preference to your Dominions. (Cheers.)

Now take one other illustration from the temporary duties on clocks and watches. When Mr. McKenna—(cheers)—who was then Chancellor of the Exchequer, in a Government of which I was the head—(cheers)—proposed in the stress of the war to impose temporary import duties upon clocks and watches, what was the object? It was plainly avowed and declared at the time that it was because these things, which were things in no sense necessities of life to the community here, took up ship space that might have been better employed upon necessary war purposes. Mr. McKenna himself said, "I have introduced these taxes upon arguments every one of which is confined to the special conditions of war." But they are to be retained though the war is over; though the necessity which gave birth to them no longer exists; they are to be retained, so far as we can see, for no other purpose than the peg on which to hang the pretended preference to the Dominions. Well, as a matter of fact, we do not buy watches and clocks from our Dominions. (Laughter.) I do not know the exact figures, but I doubt very much whether there is £10,000 worth of watches and clocks imported from the whole of the Dominions under the British Crown. Do you suppose the Dominions are going to be taken in by that? It is not a preference in any real sense of the term.

"WAIT AND SEE."

Nevertheless, small as these things are and nugatory from the point of view of preference, they have given a good deal of disquietude and not unnatural disquietude, to some of our friends who used to be, and still think they are, good Free Traders. They have sent anxious deputations to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who stroked and smoothed them with the assurance that all this was provisional, and they had to be content—I am almost afraid to use the words—they had to be content with an invitation to "wait and see." (Laughter and cheers.) I will quote the Chancellor's words to this anxious and conscience-stricken Liberal deputation.

"A common trade policy," he said, "would have to be found. Let us leave it open until we come to it, and let us come to it with open minds." That was for the benefit of the disquieted Free Traders, and it seems to have had some success, for I find that Lord Hugh Cecil, of all men one of the most convinced and ardent of our Unionist allies in the Free Trade campaign compared this little hoop of preferential duties to an engagement ring which was, he said, "though of little intrinsic value, treasured as a symptom and symbol of plighted love." (Laughter.) I do not think that is a very happy illustration, because engagements, as any of us who have much experience of life are aware, engagements are sometimes broken off, quite irrespective of the engagement ring. (Laughter and cheers.) Mr. Austen Chamberlain is a perfectly honest man, and it implies no want of honesty to administer small doses of soothing syrup to those who are craving to be soothed—(laughter)—but it does not conceal in the least the ultimate object of which these minute and almost petty, fogging proposals are avowedly only the first instrument. He evoked amidst the enthusiastic sympathy of the Protectionist wing of his party the memory of his distinguished father, who sixteen years ago, I remember it well, for I took part in the controversy demonstrated on countless platforms that there could be no Preference worthy of the name which did not tax both the staple food of the people and our manufactured goods. (Cheers.) His reply to a description I gave of his proposals the other day at Newcastle as a crumpry affair is quite explicit. He says they are part of a larger policy—(hear, hear)—and only to-day we have a most significant comment upon the statement from a very high authority—my friend Mr. Hughes, the Prime Minister of Australia. What does Mr. Hughes say, only yesterday? He says, as an Australian, "I care nothing for Imperial Preference." So the engagement ring in his eyes has no intrinsic value at all. "How do I think," he goes on, speaking of these proposals, "that it will differentiate by the thousandth part of a hair's breadth the destruction that will overtake British manufactures unless something more is done?" That is what they are after, and the something more, as we know from Mr. Hughes's full-blooded rhetoric, we know that that something more means the installation of a thorough-paced, logical, consistent, and coherent system of protection (Hear, hear.)

"FULL BLOWN" PROTECTION.

Well, side by side with all this, we have the oracular, but to my mind somewhat disquieting, sayings of Sir Auckland Geddes, who has become President of the Board of Trade, and who told an audience the other day—I quote his exact words—that his main function was to watch the industries of the country, and see that they were a balanced and coherent whole. In ordinary circumstances that might be treated as a nebulous and innocuous platitude. The circumstances are not ordinary. Do you realise—men of business here do—do people in the country generally realise that we are at this moment living for the time being under a system which has become one of full-blown protection for certain of our industries? The restrictions upon some large and important classes of imports were, I agree—I was a party to them myself—necessary for belligerent purposes during the war. They were necessary first of all to save tonnage, and next to reduce our purchases abroad. But war conditions have ceased. The necessity has passed away, and the result every week and every month that these restrictions continue is that in those trades you have artificially high prices imposed upon the consumer and abnormally inflated profits secured to the favoured producer. (Cheers.)

We are told there is going to be a general overhauling of all this early in the autumn, when I suppose the common trade policy for which our friends are waiting will be given to the world. In the meantime I am stating what every man of business knows to be the absolute and literal fact, when I say that large profits are being made by favoured industries at the expense of the consuming community of this country. What we need is a recreation of our export trade. (Cheers.) Without undue cynicism one might say that people who profit by an artificial system can always find plausible reasons in the public interest for its continuance. I answer my own question with which I started. There never was a time when it more behoved Free Traders to be on their guard, first because in the Budget Preference, which means sooner or later, and it is intended to mean sooner than later, a Protectionist tariff is stealthily making its way across the threshold of our fiscal citadel; secondly, because the impending reconsideration of the restrictions on our import trade will afford endless opportunities under various disguises and pretexts for the continuance in time of peace of Protection, which was undesigned, indirect, and avowedly temporary in a time of war.

PARIS RESOLUTIONS OF 1916.

Now at this point it may be convenient if you will allow me to deal for a moment with the suggestion often made, sometimes in very friendly quarters, that those of us who were responsible for or supported what are called the Paris resolutions of 1916 have in some way disintegrated ourselves to uphold the banner of Free Trade. Well, I have heard a great deal about the Paris resolutions. I rarely come across anyone who has read them—(laughter)—and still more rarely anyone who realises the conditions under which, or the purposes for which, they were framed. May I remark in passing that so far as the United Kingdom is concerned those resolutions before they were submitted to the Conference were revised and in some cases drafted by my right hon. friend and colleague, Mr. Walter Runciman—(cheers)—and that, at the Conference, itself this country was represented not only by Mr. Bosanquet, but by Lord Curzon. Now,

if anyone can find me in this country two more full-blooded, undeviated, unrepentant, militant Free Traders than Mr. Runciman and Lord Curzon I shall be very much surprised. The Paris conference took place during the time of the Coalition Government, which embraced, you know, both Free Traders and Tariff Reformers, and we all alike agreed that assent to that did not in the least fetter or compromise our complete liberty upon the one side or the other to hold and pursue our old fiscal faith, which is an important matter. So let me recall the exact facts. The Paris conference was not a provocative or even a spontaneous step on the part of the Allies. It was a reply to a challenge thrown down by the Central Powers earlier in the year at a conference in Vienna, and which aimed at establishing, as part of their belligerent policy at and after the conclusion of war, the complete economic predominance of Germany and Austria.

It was to meet that challenge that the Allies met in conference in Ghent, and I find that in explaining to the House of Commons—and I have refreshed my memory on August 2nd, 1916, those resolutions, I said that "a preamble which recited that aggressive intention is the note of the whole proceedings and emphasises that fact." The view of the delegates to the Conference was that their deliberations were defensive and not offensive. It was a defensive proceeding from first to last. I would never have asked my Free Trade colleagues to support the various resolutions if they had imposed upon us for any of the purposes in view the obligation, direct or indirect, of setting up in this country anything in the nature of a protective tariff.

DUTIES ON IMPORTED FOOD.

Let me come back to the larger issue. What is going to be the next move in the protectionist campaign? I doubt whether they will have the courage to propose duties on imported food. I say I doubt it, but I am not very certain. My attention was drawn the other day to a resolution passed by the farmers of Essex. What do they say? They refuse to pay more "taxes and rates until competitive producers entering our markets are equitably taxed, come from where they will. It does not matter to the Essex farmer where the wheat which competes with his wheat comes from, whether from the United States or Canada or even whether it comes from Germany. Come from where they will his demand is: "I must be sheltered and protected against this legitimate intrusion." So that I am not very certain that we are on perfectly safe and solid ground even in regard to imported food.

Again, I am sure the Protectionists will not in terms suggest the imposition of import duties on raw material; and I pause here to point this out to my fellow-countrymen outside who are being misled by all this talk about preference. Seven eighths—bear that figure in mind—of our imports from the Empire, including India, the self-governing Dominions, and all the Crown Colonies, seven eighths of those imports are under one or another of two heads, that is to say, they are either food or they are raw materials. So that the area of proposed preference is restricted at the outset to one-eighth of the trade which we do inter-Imperially with our own dependencies.

Now, the demand will be, I venture to predict, for a tariff against what are called foreign manufactured goods, and here I am sure that, as was the case fifteen years ago, great play will be made with that familiar, but ambiguous, word "dumping." Now the word "dumping" is of Transatlantic origin, and if you consult the dictionary you will find it is defined as "to throw down in a lump or a mass to shoot or deposit, usually or properly applied to refuse or rubbish." (Laughter.) That you will find in the Oxford dictionary. That being its origin and its proper meaning, it gradually came to be applied to describe concerted action by producers, usually themselves under the shelter of a protective tariff which enables them to charge artificially high prices to consumers in their own market, to obtain foot-hold in markets by selling their wares at or under the cost of production. As pointed out years ago, wherever and whenever it is pursued, it is always in the long run a suicidal policy. In principle I do not suppose that I or any other Free Trader would object to the frank and downright exclusion of imports of which it is clearly proved this is the character and purpose. I say in principle. I have the very gravest doubt whether in practice any such game would be worth the candle, but, at any rate, there rarely was a time when there was less danger of dumping in this sense, the only real and serious sense, unless, indeed—and here you have a very important aspect of the matter—unless your protective measures or anti-dumping measures are to be directed not against our late enemies, exhausted and prostrated by the war, but against one or another of our allies and associates who have co-operated with us in the great campaign. (Cheers.) Dumping to Protectionists means competition by persons who for some reason or other, through superiority of intelligence, or skill, or organisation perhaps in the process of manufacture, are able to give to the British consumer at a lower price an article which they can only afford to give him at a higher price.

FOREIGN MANUFACTURES.

What are these foreign manufactures that come? They belong entirely, when you analyse them, to two classes. In the first class there are those classes of commodities for which outside countries have better facilities, either naturally or acquired, for production. In not a few cases, and those the most important, the better facilities which are given this advantage are the result of our own lethargy and want of foresight. We have been slow in the development of technical education; we have under-valued research and the application of science to indus-

trial processes. We have lagged behind, better informed, possessed of more fore-sight and more real in these matters—we have let him invade country which we ought never to have lost. What is the remedy? Not to set up a tariff which by excluding foreign competition, will encourage the home producer to stultify his backward and undeveloped processes at the cost of the consumer, who will be called upon to continue to pay higher prices for an inferior article. That is not the remedy which ought to commend itself to the intelligence of any British man or woman. The main remedy and the only real remedy is this: Improve your methods of production, of organisation, of distribution, and recognise that the perfection of your national system of education, both on the side of theory and on the side of practice, is the most economical and the most fruitful of all forms of expenditure. (Cheers.)

But there is another class of foreign goods that come here. It is the great bulk of them. They are goods that are manufactured in name, manufactured to a point, upon which our capital and labour can be more remuneratively employed when they are concentrated on the later and more elaborate stages of production. In fact, they are the raw material which has been partially prepared by the foreigner for application of the finer processes of the skilled labourer of this country. When by your tariff, by an import duty upon these so-called manufactured goods, you have raised the cost of what I may call the secondary raw material, do you not see—cannot a child see—that you will have inflicted a double injury, first, on the increased price paid for the ultimate product by the consumer, and, secondly, in the enhanced expense of production which will be a new handicap to your exporting producer in the outside markets of the world?

Is there any Free Trader who is not as anxious as the most thorough-going Protectionist to increase the material resources of the Empire, to develop commercial intercourse between all its parts, to get as much as we can from our fellow-subjects or that which we all need? Of course, there is not, but there is a right and a wrong way of doing it. The wrong way is to encumber your Empire by an impenetrable ring which excludes from the Imperial industry commodities, materials, foods that could be grown and produced better elsewhere. Imperial preference would expose you to constantly recurring feuds and controversies as to whether this or that part of the Empire was being preferred to the others.

In conclusion, Mr. Asquith said: No country can have lost what we have lost in this war and go on spending as we are spending now without hazarding its own future. (Cheers.) The curtailment of expenditure upon all but absolutely necessary purposes—curtailment wholesale and even ruthless—is the first condition for us to-day, not only of prosperity but of safety, and the second is, as I have already indicated, the improvement, the steady and growing improvement, not only in the quantity of our production, but in that which constitutes its real cost, which, I need not say, is not measured by wages alone, because I believe that there can be no more formidable setback to what in any case will be, and must be, a prolonged and arduous climb than that we should once more encumber ourselves on the road with tariffs which were repudiated by our fathers, which are unsuited to our conditions, and which are hampering to all possible progress. (Loud cheers.)

COAL NATIONALISATION.

OWNERS' STATEMENT.

"CHAOS AND DELAY."

The Coal Association, of which Mr. Philip Gee is director, issued the following statement on June 24th regarding Mr. Justice Sankey's report on the subject of the nationalisation of the coalminers:

"A committee of coal-owners who met in London to-day stated that the coal-owners as a whole are not yet in a position to give their views in detail on Mr. Justice Sankey's report, but it is probable that they will shortly issue an official statement dealing with the recommendations."

"It may, however, be assumed that the owners are opposed to nationalisation in the belief that it is contrary to the interests of the country and the consumer. The proposals of Mr. Justice Sankey mean nothing else than the handing over of the coal trade to bureaucratic control, which would be centralised in the hands of one man. The future working of the collieries would be worse than the present control, and nothing but chaos could result. The consumer would be the party most affected, and apparently there is no other prospect than a still further reduced output under the scheme propounded by Mr. Justice Sankey, as a result of the cumbersome machinery which it is proposed to set up."

"It is agreed that a cheap and adequate supply of coal is essential to the comfort of individuals and to the maintenance of the trade of the country, but the system of management suggested will neither increase the supply nor cheapen the cost. Procrastination and delay would be inevitable. For example, under the system proposed the Minister of Mines has the power of veto over any resolution of the local or district management committees, and therefore all such resolutions must come before him before they can be effectively carried out. Again, no safeguards exist to protect the consumer, such as are provided by competition between owners, since a monopoly pure and simple would be established, with no means of comparison as to efficiency."

"The solution that Mr. Justice Sankey now propounds amounts to this: That because the existing system of ownership is alleged to be unacceptable to the miners there must be a change, irrespective of whether such change will be of benefit to the country as a whole."

TRADING WITH THE ENEMY. SUBJECT TO CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS.

The Officer Administering the Government, by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, permits all persons carrying on business or trade in the Colony to have financial and business transactions with Germany and German Austria.

It is necessary, however, to obtain licenses in respect of any transactions under any prohibition of import for the time being in force in the United Kingdom or the Colony.

It is provided, also, that this license shall not permit any person or body of persons to pay to, or for the benefit of, any person or body of persons resident or carrying on business in Germany any sum of money which by the terms of the Trading with the Enemy Ordinances 1914 to 1916 or any of them, is required to be paid to the Custodian appointed under the Trading with the Enemy Second Amendment Ordinance, 1915, but such sum of money must be paid to the said Custodian.

It is further stipulated that this license shall not permit any person or body of persons to pay or deliver any sum of money or property which is, or but for the war would have been, due or deliverable to any person or body of persons resident or carrying on business in Germany in respect of transactions entered into before the outbreak of war.

THE RICE SITUATION. S.S. "TAI SHUN" LOOTED.

While the s.s. *Tai Shun* was discharging a cargo of rice on one of the wharves in Canton Road, on Friday morning, a gang of about thirty coolies looted about thirty piculs. An alarm was raised, and the Police dispersed the mob.

Later, one of the rioters was arrested in a shop in Des Vaux Road while bargaining for the sale of some of the stolen rice. He was produced at the Magistrate's Court, on Saturday, on a charge of stealing.

Defendant said that, noticing a number of coolies stealing rice, he joined them. Inspector Macdonald stated that twenty cartons of rice were found in defendant's possession.

Mr. Lindell sentenced defendant to seven weeks' hard labour.

AN INCIDENT.

On Saturday night, at about 11 o'clock, a tram-car was passing Sincere's shop at a fair speed when a Chinese, wearing tattered clothing and with a woebegone expression on his face, deliberately stepped in front of it. The driver managed to pull up the car a yard away from the man, who then leisurely walked to Sincere's verandah. The driver's anger was roused and he exclaimed: "Do you wish to commit suicide owing to the high cost of rice?" The man slunk away in the darkness.

THE RICE FROM WUHU.

At a meeting of the Committee of the Tung Wah Hospital, on Saturday afternoon, the question of continuing the distribution of congee was discussed. The Chairman stated that the two representatives who had gone to see Mr. Chan Lam-pak about a consignment of 10,000 piculs of Wuhu rice for Hongkong had reported that the rice would arrive in the Colony during the ensuing week.

Several Committees were appointed to appeal for subscriptions from the wealthier Chinese to alleviate the distress of the poor until such time as the price of rice should fall to its normal level.

A CURIOUS CHINESE.

CHIEF INSPECTOR KERR'S INTERESTING HALF HOUR.

Chief Inspector Kerr, of the Hongkong Police Force, had an unusual experience on Friday night while patrolling Queen's Road. A Chinese insisted on following him about and asking him a number of questions concerning his domestic affairs. The Inspector submitted to this until he reached the Central Police Station, and then arrested his interrogator.

The man was charged at the Magistrate's Court, on Saturday, with using insulting language.

Inspector Kerr stated that while he was on patrol duty near the Central Market defendant came up to him and stared at him hard in the face. Witness continued his patrol and when he got between Dundell Street and Zetland Street defendant accosted him and said, in excellent English: "What's the number of your house?"

Witness replied that he was living there, but that he had no number to his house, and then continued on his patrol. Witness followed defendant with his following. Near Lower Albert Road the man again accosted him with his undesirable chatter, this time asking: "Have you got a wife?" Witness replied: "Yes, I have. What do you want?" Defendant remarked: "Anything you like." Witness went along Wyndham Street, and past the Dairy Farm with defendant still behind him. When witness reached the Central Police Station, however, the defendant attempted to run away. Witness, assisted by some other policemen who had been attracted by the commotion, arrested the defendant, who said: "Excuse me this time." When searched, defendant was found to be in possession of a piece of carbolic soap and some brown paper.

Defendant stated that he asked the Inspector the whereabouts of the Police mess and the Inspector had followed him. Mr. Lindell sentenced defendant to three months' hard labour.

BANVARD'S MUSICAL COMEDY CO.

SATURDAY'S STARTLING SUCCESS.

The popularity of the Banvard Musical Comedy Company in Hongkong was proved on Saturday night when the Company began a short return visit to the Colony. By 9 p.m. every seat in the Theatre Royal had been sold, and there were eager applicants for standing room. Nearly 200 people elected to accept a certain amount of inconvenience rather than miss the evening's entertainment, and a very large number of others had to be turned away.

The play originally announced for Saturday was "Step Lively," but, on his arrival in Hongkong on Saturday, Mr. Banvard wisely decided to put on, instead, the "King of Patagonia," which is considered one of the Company's most attractive successes, and the consensus of opinion was that this farce was even more amusing than "The Suffragettes" and "Oh Papa," both of which made a good impression when the Company were last in Hongkong. "The King of Patagonia" provided a long series of laughs, interspersed with musical numbers in which the Company, individually and collectively, did themselves full justice.

The audience was determined to be pleased, and encouraged the performers with lavish applause. As in all Banvard's farces, the plot was difficult to trace, but that, of course, did not matter. It concerned the efforts of a widow to induct herself into the good graces of a man whom she imagined to be the "King of Patagonia." By encouraging the widow to join his harem, the pseudo-king aroused the jealousy of several people, including a dago cook, whose unsuccessful attempts to assassinate him provided a series of amusing situations.

Miss Pearl Jardiniere's humour and vivacity made her a favourite from start to finish. Miss Myrtle Dingwall sang some very charming songs. One of the best of these was "Will o' the Wisp," for which she was recalled three times. Miss Hazel Boyd, a lady reporter, insisted on taking snapshots of people in the most compromising attitudes. Her eccentric dance was one of the "hits" of the evening.

Miss Emma Ellsworth's one appearance made the audience wish for more. She is a promising singer with a very taking stage manner. Miss Rhyllys Barrow, the premiere danseuse, was cheered to the echo for a very pleasing performance which bore a strong resemblance to the match dance of Northern India. As the "King" Mr. Willis West made a most disreputably funny character. He lightened things up with each of his appearances, especially when accompanied by Miss Jardiniere. Mr. W. E. Kofsky, as an irascible old Colonel, supported him ably in the impossible situations which the farce revealed.

"The King of Patagonia" will be repeated to-night. It will be learned with general regret that it is possible that shipping arrangements will not allow of the Company staying in Hongkong after Wednesday. They will present their "mille-minute" comedy "Step Lively" to-morrow, as well as at the two performances on Wednesday. If they stay longer, they will show the "musical mix-up," "The Tourists" and a vaudeville programme on Thursday and Friday.

Mr. Banvard, in conversation with a *Daily Press* reporter yesterday, related some of the exciting experiences of his Company in Vladivostok, where, owing to lack of steamers, they were forced to remain six weeks. Such was the "reign of terror" that prevailed in the town during their stay that everyone had to go about armed with a revolver. On one day 25 Americans were killed by the Bolsheviks in Vladivostok, and members of the Company had some narrow escapes. Two of the young ladies fell ill owing to the strain they were subjected to, and Miss Myrtle Dingwall, the leading lady, has not yet fully recovered. Whenever the Company went they were escorted by an armed guard, and the doors of the Theatre were similarly guarded when they were performing. At one time, the danger from the Bolsheviks was so great that two fully-armed soldiers had to remain on guard at the door of each room occupied by the girls. "We had some hair-raising experiences," concluded Mr. Banvard, "and you can be certain that we were very glad to see the last of Vladivostok."

THE CABLE CENSORSHIP.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that telegrams for the following places will only be accepted, subject to local restrictions: Malta (not Egypt, as previously announced), from German possessions, Hungary, Bulgaria, Turkey (including Palestine, Syria, Cilicia and Mesopotamia), France and French possessions, Italy and Italian possessions, Portugal and Portuguese possessions, Greece, Roumania, Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Estonia, Lithuania, Russia (including Caucasus and Russia in Asia), Switzerland, Honduras and Argentina.

PEKING NOTES.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

PEKING, July 30th.

THE PREMIERSHIP.

Kung Hsin-chin is still acting Prime Minister, and there is a possibility that he may assume the substantive position. That is the immediate outlook, but circumstances may bring about a change at any time. Though Kung has reached an understanding with the Anfu Club, which presumes acceptance of their demands for the portfolios of Finance, Communications and the Interior, it is not impossible that the Club may seek to be revenged upon him for having defeated their plans for the control of the Bank of China. Other names are mentioned, and in Anfu circles there is unusual animation. A "general post" will take place in the Cabinet shortly, and friends of the prospective portfolio-holders are already "on the job," ear-marking their future positions and probably drawing something on account. The flagrant use of public funds for personal and party gain continues unabashedly. A man with honest inclinations such as those with which Kung Hsin-chin is credited has absolutely no chance. If he become Premier on Anfu terms he will suffer a moral relapse; if he be "showed under" it will be because the Anfu Club has secured a more competent candidate. In either case the position of the President remains exceedingly difficult.

One would have to go back a long time to find a period in which money was easy in Peking. It has been tight ever since the Great War, and it has become tighter since the Powers have decided not to advance any more to China until she has composed her internal strife. Customs and Salt surpluses are not enough to meet current expenditure. Military requirements still absorb an undue proportion of public revenue without improving the situation. Soldiers have to be paid to prevent them from becoming bandits, but they remain the servants of their Tachans and have no sense of loyalty to the State. They have only one thing in common—their fear and dislike of Japan. The Government is in a desperate plight. Salaries have not been paid for a month or more, and money is urgently needed to carry on the administration. The more so as the increasing cost of rice is adding materially to the difficulties of the Junior members of the staffs of the Ministries. Loans are being sought from other than the usual financial sources on very attractive terms for a short period in order to tide over the time until the Consortium will see fit to make a substantial advance.

THE SHANGHAI PEACE CONFERENCE.

The desire for a rapprochement between North and South is very apparent these days, and the prospects of a reunion were never brighter. The resumption of negotiations, however, is delayed by the deadlock in Peking. Until a new Cabinet is formed nothing can be done, and the re-organisation of the Cabinet depends upon the goodwill of the Anfu Club. It looks as if the students will have to bestir themselves again and prove to this pernicious organisation that there is a healthy public opinion. Meanwhile, it remains inarticulate and, in consequence, the militarists feel strong enough to insist upon forcing their rule upon the Government.

WITNESS MILITARIAN.

It would seem as if the North-West Frontier Defence Army has made some progress on the road to Unga. Independent reports testify to the presence of grey-uniformed soldiers in considerable numbers on the Monoglian plateau. This indicates that the expedition has not completely failed, but its utility is still in question. In the meantime, General Hsu Shu-chin is moving heaven and earth to get himself appointed Minister of War. When he secures that position he hopes to be able to dominate the military situation. But he is no longer in close co-operation with Marshal Tuan Chi-jui, and it is on that rock that his ship may be wrecked. Tuan has united the militarists before and may do again if Little Hsu becomes too ambitious.

PEKING HAT.

Peking is empty these days. It is the period of "great heat," and nobody seems capable of much energy. High Chinese are now flocking to the seaside like their foreign friends and the coast resorts are more crowded than ever.

TWO FATALITIES.

The British community in North China is saddened by the deaths of Colonel Wright, commanding the 18th Infantry at Tientsin, who was drowned on Sunday while bathing at Shanghaiwan; and of Mr. M. Tatham, engineer on the Peking-Mukden Railway, who met a like fate at Chinwangtao before the eyes of his wife, who had just returned from two months' war work at home.

TRADE REPORT.

EXPORTS.

Rice.—Advices just to hand from Saigon are to the effect that the French Authorities down there will not—after the last proximo—grant export permits for any destination other than France, and, as Saigon is now practically our only source of supply, we may experience great difficulty later on in replenishing our stocks.

It was rumoured in rice circles on Saturday morning that some Japanese firms here had purchased about 5,000 bags of Saigon rice at \$22.50 per picul direct from the big Chinese importers. This sale will, in all likelihood, give further strength to our market and higher values will probably rule in the not very distant future.

The American market has not been able to follow the rapid advances in Oriental quotations, and we have it on good authority that a local rice exporter has received a cable from America offering to ship back 3,500 tons "usual" rice at a Gold Dollar price which works out considerably below our ruling quotations. The day may come yet when we shall, perhaps, be forced to buy back rice from America to keep us going until the advent of the new season.

The present nominal quotations are as follows:

Siam Garden rice, \$27.50 (no supplies).
Siam Straight rice, \$28.50 (small supplies).
Siam Usual rice, \$24.75.
Saigon Long rice, \$24.50.
Saigon Round rice, \$23.50 (no stock).
PEANUT OIL.—Owing to the failure of an old-established native oil-dealer, some exporters here will most probably find themselves in the awkward position of being unable to carry out their contracts. The market is very firm indeed, and holders are not prepared to give out refusals. Only firm offers are being entertained, and even then the dealers are asking for rather extended deliveries. Closing rates are:

No. 1 quality at \$38.50 per picul.
No. 2 quality at \$38.00 per picul.
WOOD OIL.—A fair business has been done in this article, and the market closes firm at \$35.50 per picul.

TEA OIL.—A few fair-sized orders have been put through, and the market closes strong at \$23.50.

STARANIZED OIL.—15 deg. Freezing Point. Business has been done at \$107, and the market is likely to go much higher in view of the steady demand from Europe.

CASSIA OIL.—Quotations:—50/55 per cent. at \$290; 75/80 per cent. at \$240; 70/75 per cent. at \$230. No business is reported.

SAIGON, Cassia.—4/10/4. Assortment is quoted at about \$38 per picul.

CANTON, Cassia.—Selected Banded can be had at about \$14.25 to \$14.50, and a fair business has been done in this line for shipment to New York.

STARANIZED is quiet at \$23.

GALVANIZED.—There is nothing doing, and supplies could be had at \$41 per picul.

HIDES.—Cows' of desirable grades and weights are hard to obtain. "Buffaloes" of 30/40 lbs. are offering at \$60.

LARD.—The \$50 mark predicted in our report of the 7th ulto. has already been exceeded, and it is difficult to-day even to get "old time" under \$48. In "new tins" business has been done at \$54 for South America, and further orders could probably be placed at \$55 per picul.

BANK RETURNS FOR JULY.

The returns of the average amount of bank notes in circulation and specie in reserve in Hongkong during the month ended July 31st, 1910, as certified by the Managers of the respective Banks are as follows:—

Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, £8,126,993 & 5,000,000*
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation 24,738,516 17,000,000
Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd. 1,134,631 530,000*
Total \$34,083,842 \$22,530,000

Sterling Securities deposited with the Crown Agents, valued at \$240,000.
+ Securities with the Crown Agents, £125,000.

THE MOSCOW TRIO.

It was a pity that a larger audience did not avail itself of the opportunity of listening to the famous Moscow Trio of instrumentalists who performed at Kingsclere Hotel last night. Those present were rewarded with a feast of music refreshing and enjoyable. The programme was so arranged as to give each of the artists—M. Hmelitsky (pianist), M. Rosenker (violinist) and M. Bakaleinikoff (cellist)—an opportunity of demonstrating his skill with his particular instrument. Selections from the works of favourite masters, such as Theodore Dubois, Lalo, Chopin, Poper, and Arensky were interpreted with admirable judgment and feeling. The trios, especially, were appreciated. At the conclusion of the programme, which was as follows, the gifted performers were warmly applauded:—

Theodore Dubois, Trio, 1, Movement moderato; 2, Assez lent tres expressif; 3, Vif et tres léger; and 4, Final. Moscow Trio.
Lalo, Concert, Mr. Rosenker.
Chopin, Etude, Mr. Hmelitsky.
Poper, Rhapsodie, Mr. Bakaleinikoff.
Arensky, Trio, 1, Allegro moderato; 2, Scherzo; 3, Elegia; and 4, Final. Moscow Trio.

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[1082]

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[1077]



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SEE WINDOWS

POSSIBILITY OF GENERAL STRIKE NOW REMOTE:

FOREIGN MONEY FINANCING BRITISH AGITATION.

SERIOUSNESS OF BRITAIN'S FINANCIAL POSITION.

ORDER OF MERIT CONFERRED ON MR. LLOYD GEORGE.

IMMEDIATE MEASURES AGAINST PROFITEERING AT HOME.

SENSATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN HUNGARY.

ALLIES DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO AN ARCHDUKE.

AUSTRIA'S OFFER TO THE ALLIES.

LATEST CABLES.

CONCESSIONS TO BAKERS.

LABOUR UNREST AT HOME.

LIVERPOOL SITUATION UNCHANGED.
In the House of Commons, Mr. E. Shortt stated that the situation in Liverpool had not materially changed. There were attempts at looting this morning. He impressed on the House the fact that the attempt of certain persons to cause a complete cessation of work, and hand over the city to the mercy of the criminal classes, had hitherto failed. The Government had every confidence that the authorities in Liverpool would take every step, however severe, to preserve law and order and protect the citizens from sinister attacks. The Government was prepared to give them every assistance. (Cheers.) He mentioned that the attempts made to burn the docks had been unsuccessful.

FOREIGN MONEY FINANCING BRITISH AGITATION.

London, August 8th.
Scotland Yard has definite information that foreign money is financing the agitation in Britain with the object of overthrowing the existing system of Government. A certain Swedish who has made a full confession, arrived a week ago from Hungary with £5,000, which, it is alleged, he delivered to a well-known extremist. The latter denies receiving the money. The Swede has been deported.

LOYALTY OF CITY OF LONDON POLICE.

London, August 7th.
An overwhelming majority of the City of London Police have forwarded to the Commissioner a resolution of thanks as regards his support for better pay, repudiating the strikers and securing their unwavering loyalty.

GREAT IMPROVEMENT IN STRIKE SITUATION.

London, August 7th.
The strike situation is better. The Nine Elms men are returning to work. Most of the Tube strikers are also returning. The situation at Liverpool is quieter. The position in Yorkshire is unchanged.

POSSIBILITY OF GENERAL STRIKE NOW REMOTE.

London, August 7th.
The industrial situation in Liverpool is remarkably brighter, and the possibility of a general strike is now considered remote. The City has resumed its normal life, with the exception of the trams and bakeries which have not resumed. The Dockers' Union and the Municipal workers have followed the example of the railwaymen in deciding not to support the Police.

THE COAL MINES BILL PASSED.

London, August 8th.
The House of Commons passed the third reading of the Coal Mines Bill, establishing a seven-hour day.

LIVERPOOL RAILWAYMEN'S RESOLVE.

London, August 7th.
A mass meeting of railwaymen at Liverpool resolved to abide by the decision of the National Executive and refused to authorise a strike in sympathy with the Police.

THE POLICE STRIKE.

London, August 7th.
The Birkenhead Police have resigned from the Police Union. This is the first force to do so in the strike area.

TUBE STRIKERS RESUMING.

London, August 7th.
The Executives of the Union of Railwaymen and the Society of Locomotive Engineers last night jointly recommended that the London Tube and North British Railway strikers should resume work immediately. Services on the London, South-Western and South London tubes improved yesterday. Many of the strikers have already resumed.

They have also demanded the reduction of the Hungarian Army to 15,000, the surrender of 30 per cent. of her harvest, her animals, and her farm machinery, and 30 per cent. of her railway supplies.

SUPREME COUNCIL TAKES ACTION.

Paris, August 7th.
The Supreme Council has telegraphed to the Rumanian Government distinctly refusing to recognise the right of the Rumanians to make the demands, cabled on August 6th.

A SHARP REMINDER TO RUMANIA.

Paris, August 8th.
The Supreme Council has not only refused to recognise the Rumanian right to impose fresh Armistice terms, but also pointed out that the exaction of reparations and indemnities was vested in all the Allies.

AMERICAN CIRCLES STRONGLY INDIGNANT.

American circles are strongly indignant at Rumania's action, and predict that it will disastrously affect the opinion of America.

FRENCH OPINION.

French circles take a less serious view and express the opinion that Rumania will not refuse to comply with the decision of the Peace Conference. It is urged that in judging the startling course of events, the fact that Rumania is an ally but Hungary's enemy should be remembered.

SOLEMN WARNING FROM THE SUPREME COUNCIL.

Paris, August 8th.
The Supreme Council is today, in the consideration of the tough at Budapest, from where all the Allied representatives reports depict the conduct of the Rumanians in an unfavourable light.

General Gordon telegraphs that the Rumanian troops are committing outrages. Mr. Frank Palk, the chief American delegate, told the Council that the commission of the new Government and the manner of its formation would do more to spread Bolshevism than anything else.

The Council has drafted a telegram to the French Minister at Bucharest, for transmission to the Rumanian Government, recalling that, on August 5th, the Allies sent a Military Mission to Budapest to arrange with the Hungarian Government the execution of the Armistice terms, and the safeguarding of the Hungarian population from violence or pressure at the hands of the Rumanian Army.

The Council learned, on August 6th, that the Rumanian Generalissimo had presented fresh Armistice terms to the Hungarians.

The Supreme Council then telegraphed to the Rumanian Government refusing to recognise the Rumanian right to conclude a fresh Armistice, warning the Rumanian Government against any violation of law or humanity, and requesting it to order the Rumanian Generals in Budapest to obey the orders of the Allied Commission at Budapest.

No reply has been received from the Council, but it has learned that the Rumanian Generalissimo refused to obey the Commission. Instead, they permitted pillaging, established a blockade which is reducing Budapest to starvation, destroyed the railways between Budapest and Vienna, and committed other violations of the rights of the Allies and even of humanity.

The telegram concluded by requesting the Rumanian Government immediately to demonstrate by acts that the inference of the Conference that Rumania is resolved to disregard its authority, and separate herself from the Allies, is mistaken.

A DEADLOCK AT BUDAPEST.

Paris, August 8th.
According to the *Revue de Paris*, owing to the refusal of the Rumanian authorities to receive the Allied Military Mission, the Supreme Council has made energetic representations to the Bucharest Government.

RUMANIANS NOT ACCEPTING FRENCH ORDERS.

Paris, August 6th.
The French Government says that the Rumanian Army is not accepting French orders.

RUMANIAN ACTION SUPPORTED BY FRENCH PRESS.

Paris, August 8th.
The prohibitive attitude of the Allied Supreme Council towards the Rumanians is the subject of considerable criticism in the French Press, it being stated that the *Entente* agents now in Budapest are telegraphing strong protests against Rumanian action.

Prominent French journalists warn the Supreme Council against allowing themselves to be influenced by the local agents, whose personal beliefs have been upset by recent events.

AMERICAN THREAT TO THE RUMANIANS.

Berlin, August 8th.
The *Tagblatt's* Budapest correspondent states that the American Government has requested the Rumanian Command to withdraw their Armistice conditions, threatening a stoppage of supplies to Rumania.

RUMANIANS CARRYING OFF ALL FOOD.

Paris, August 8th.
Mr. H. C. Hoover, who is directing relief work in Hungary, has ordered the suspension of all consignments of food to Budapest, on the ground that the Rumanians are carrying off all the food.

FLIGHT OF HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR IN VIENNA.

Vienna, August 7th.
According to the *Zeit*, the Hungarian Ambassador, M. Boehm, fled by motor from Vienna last night, after burning certain secret documents.

M. BELA KUN MAY BE MOVED.

Vienna, August 7th.
The population of the town in Lower Austria where M. Bela Kun and two of his associates are, is ordered under assumed names have demanded their removal before the week-end.

FOUR ALLIED GENERALS FOR BUDAPEST.

Paris, August 8th.
The Supreme Council has appointed four Generals to go to Budapest, as follows:—General Graziani (France), General Gordon (Great Britain), General Bandholz (United States), and General Monbelli (Italy).

SITUATION IN BUDAPEST OBSCURE.

London, August 7th.
In the House of Commons, Mr. Cecil Harcourt stated that the situation in Budapest is obscure.

ALLIED TROOPS REACH BUDAPEST.

According to Vienna newspaper, French troops arrived at Budapest on the 5th and British and American troops on the 6th instant.

HUNGARIANS WREAKING VENGEANCE ON BOLSHEVISTS.

Copenhagen, August 7th.
German correspondents in Budapest state that Hungarian peasants are wreaking vengeance on the Bolshevists, whose leaders in many instances have been publicly beaten to death with sticks.

BRITAIN'S FINANCIAL POSITION.

London, August 7th.
In the House of Commons, replying to members and emphasising the seriousness of the financial situation, Mr. Austen Chamberlain denounced those treacherous circles which were endeavouring, by direct action, to overthrow Parliament.

He said that the Government would take whatever steps were required to deal with the situation, and needed the goodwill and active assistance of the whole community.

Expenditure must be cut down and production increased, or we should become nationally bankrupt.

The Budget position, as regards the balance between expenditure and revenue, had become seriously unfavourable than when the Budget was introduced.

Many new large items of expenditure had been sanctioned, namely, pensions amounting to half the pre-war expenditure, increased pay for the Army, Navy, and Police, and bonuses for Civil Servants.

Moreover, there was the continuance of the Ministry of Food, involving its trading with a capital of £70,000,000, which was consequently not yet returned to the Treasury.

Mr. Chamberlain emphasised that next year the financial situation would not be normal. He foreshadowed fresh expenditure, unless drastic reductions in expenditure were effected.

He appealed to the House to exercise the closest vigilance as regards new expenditure. It was his policy to reduce and end subsidies as soon as possible.

Mr. Chamberlain emphasised the need of increasing production at a reduced cost, in order to get the entry into goods markets that could pay for supplies.

The adverse exchange with America was a danger signal; unless it was rectified shortly, everyone, from the richest to the poorest, was in for a very bad time.

The Government was determined to stop reckless waste and would institute rigorous economy and cut down expenditure.

There was no need to fear that the Government would embark upon the hazardous policy of nationalising everything. There was nothing in the situation beyond the nation's control, given the war-time resolution, public spirit, and unity.

Mr. Lloyd George said that the national position was grave owing to the prevailing spirit of irresponsibility, but, if everybody throughout the land put forth their best exertions, as they did in war time, we should emerge triumphantly.

THE WORLD'S SHIPPING.

COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR 1919.

London, August 7th.
Lloyd's Shipping Register, the first uncensored issue since the war, shows that in 1918, the United Kingdom owns 34.1 per cent. of the world's tonnage, compared with 41.6 per cent. and 4.6 per cent., respectively, in 1914.

The tonnage of the United States has increased by 6,729,000 as compared with 4,629,000 in the tonnage of the United Kingdom.

GERMANY'S LOWLY CONDITION.

Berlin, August 7th.
Germany's Mercantile Fleet at present numbers 3,755 ships with a gross tonnage of 724,944. Of this number, 105 ships, aggregating 135,673 tons, are over 1,000 tons.

This means the loss, compared with January, 1913, of 4,000,000 tons, or over four-fifths of her whole Mercantile Marine.

FIGHTING BOLSHEVISM.

BOLSHEVIST SUBMARINE SUNK.

London, August 7th.
The Admiralty announces that a Bolshevik submarine was sunk in the Baltic by two British submarines.

FOOD OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE UKRAINE.

Stockholm, August 6th.
A telegram from Petrograd states that the Bolshevists have started a food offensive against the Ukraine. Detachments of several thousands of soldiers, with machine-guns and field-guns, have been ordered to seize all the food possible in order to save Petrograd and Moscow from certain famine.

THE NATION'S THANKS TO THOSE WHO WON THE GREAT WAR.

London, August 8th.
In the House of Commons, Mr. David Lloyd George moved the following motion, regarding the nation's thanks to all those who devoted services helped to win the great struggle of 1914-1918:—

THE RESOLUTIONS.

Firstly, to the officers, petty officers, and men of the Army and the Royal Marines, for their sleepless watch over the seas, and the courage, resource and devotion with which, during four years of constant peril, they maintained the blockade of the enemy's coast, covered the blockade of the enemy's coast, and defended the commerce of the civilised world against the craft and subtlety of a ruthless foe.

Secondly, to the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Armies in the field, for the matchless valour and endurance with which, amid circumstances of unexampled hardship, they sustained the shock of war in many climes, for the good humour, cheerfulness and patience of their bearing, for the untiring spirit which carried them through four years of strenuous toil to complete and splendid victory.

Thirdly, to the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Air Force, for their brilliant daring and conspicuous services over the seas and on land.

Fourthly, to the gallant troops from the Dominions overseas, from India, and from the Crown Colonies, for the promptitude with which they responded to the call for the cause of justice and freedom, for the noble part they played in conjunction with their comrades in the British Armies in securing the triumph of right over wrong.

Fifthly, to the women of the medical and other auxiliary services, for their devotion in tending the sick and wounded, and their other duties faithfully and bravely discharged.

Sixthly, to the officers and men of the Mercantile Marine, for the fine and fearless seamanship by which our people were preserved from want, and our cause from disaster.

Seventhly, that this House doth acknowledge, with deep submission and reverence, the heroism of those who have fallen in the service of their country, and tender its sympathy to their relatives in the hour of their sorrow and grief.

Mr. Lloyd George also moved a resolution regarding the nation's profound thanks to the officers and men of the Air Force, for the noble part they played in conjunction with their comrades in the British Armies in securing the triumph of right over wrong.

THE PREMIER'S STIRRING SPEECH.

Referring to Marshal Foch, he said that his genius was recognised by friend and foe. The war would have been won without Mr. Marshall Foch, but not in 1918. (Cheers.) And what winning the war in 1918 meant to the world was difficult to calculate. The gratitude of the civilized world, therefore, went out to him. (Cheers.)

The Premier paid a notable tribute to Mr. Asquith and Earl Grey for accepting the challenge of Prussianism in 1904, thus saving Britain from shame. We would have been a prosperous but despised people had we not entered the war. (Cheers.)

He said that the day was one of the most thrilling and most inspiring episodes in the history of the world, and would always be associated with the name of Earl Kitchener. (Cheers.)

The dauntlessness of these men ranked with the Iron Infantry of Marlborough and Wellington on land, and with the sailing men of Drake at sea. (Cheers.)

Mr. Lloyd George said that the national position was grave owing to the prevailing spirit of irresponsibility, but, if everybody throughout the land put forth their best exertions, as they did in war time, we should emerge triumphantly.

He urged the cutting down of expenditure to the narrowest limits.

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PREMIER'S TRIBUTE TO THE FIGHTING COMMANDERS.

London, August 8th.
In the House of Commons, the Premier, moving a resolution for money grants to the Commanders of the Forces, emphasised that the British scale of war pensions was incomparably the most generous in Europe, aggregating £28,000,000 yearly, or half the national expenditure of a pre-war year.

He argued that exceptional rewards ought to be given to those who had borne exceptional responsibilities with exceptional success.

He paid a tribute to Field Marshal Haig's tenacity, gallantry, and success and his ability to subordinate himself to the demands of his country.

He recalled that Lord French, at Ypres, fought, with all forces, one of the six decisive battles of the war, covering the British Army with honour. (Cheers.)

The Premier paid a tribute to General Allenby, the brilliant commander who had won the last and most triumphant Crusade. (Cheers.)

He said that Field Marshal Sir Henry Wilson was one of the most gifted soldiers Britain ever possessed. His vision and gift of organisation were one of the greatest assets of Britain in the crisis of 1918.

We were indebted to General Sir W. Robertson that the General Staff was so well organised and had rendered such great service to the war.

General Frenchard's energy, daring and imagination, had made the Air Force a formidable machine.

Lieut.-Col. Sir M. Hankey's services were known to few, but they were unsurpassed. He had shown remarkable foresight in regard to the requirements of the war, and was indeed an organiser of victory. (Cheers.)

The Premier paid a tribute to the brilliant leadership of Generals Plumer, Horne, Byng, Rawlinson and Birdwood, without whom it would have been impossible to turn the tide of battle in 1918. (Cheers.)

The Premier said that Admiral Beatty had established, finally, the supremacy of the British Navy. (Cheers.)

Admiral Jellicoe's services before and during the war had been incalculable. Admiral Beatty, by his brilliant Falklands action, had run the Pacific and the Atlantic to German raiders.

Admiral de Robeck's services were well known. Commander Tyrwhitt was the outstanding representative of the torpedo flotilla, whose ceaseless vigilance had ultimately baffled the enemy's designs. (Cheers.)

Vice Admiral Keyes would live in naval history as the chief figure of the Zeebrugge exploit.

Admiral Madden had rendered invaluable aid in naval organisation. This was but a small part of the recognition we owed to these great men. (Cheers.)

LABOUR AMENDMENT REJECTED.
Mr. W. Adamson, the head of the Labour Party, moved the reduction of the vote to £200,000—to be divided in the same proportions as proposed on the ground that the grants were out of all proportion to the monetary rewards given to the rank and file.

Mr. Lloyd George, replying to Labour criticism, emphasised that £100,000,000 were being spent on pensions to men and their dependents. (Loud cheers.)

The amendment was rejected by 258 votes to 60.

SOME NOTABLE OMISSIONS.

Mr. T. H. W. Inskip drew attention to the disparity of the amount granted to General Birdwood compared with that granted to other Army Commanders.

Mr. W. Joynson-Hicks drew attention to the omission of the names of Sir Charles Monro, who had carried out the evacuation of Gallipoli afterwards going to India as Commander-in-Chief, and of Sir Frederick Sykes, who had been chief of the Air Force in the field.

ORDER OF MERIT FOR THE PREMIER.

London, August 8th.
The following is His Majesty's letter to the Premier:—

Buckingham Palace.
London, August 8th.
My dear Prime Minister, The honours and rewards to the officers of the Navy, Army and Air Force having been submitted to Parliament, I feel that my people will share with me the regret that it is not possible to express the nation's grateful recognition of the pre-eminent services rendered by the Prime Minister, both in carrying the war to a victorious conclusion, and in securing an honourable peace.

To rectify somewhat this omission, and personally to mark my high appreciation of these services, it gives me great pleasure to confer upon you the Order of Merit.

Believe me, yours very sincerely,
GEORGE, R.I.

TURKEY.

MOVEMENT IN FAVOUR OF A BRITISH MANDATE.

CONSTANTINOPLE, August 5th.
The movement in favour of a British mandate for Turkey is increasing enormously.

An Association, largely composed of old Turks and retired officials, is carrying on an active campaign towards this end, with a view to an ultimate plebiscite.

General Sir George Milne has been entrusted with the maintenance of order in Smyrna on behalf of the Allies.

THE IRISH PROBLEM.

London, August 7th.
In the House of Commons, replying to Sir Donald Maclean as regards the Irish question, Mr. Lloyd George declared that the Government would submit its policy to Parliament at the earliest opportunity after the recess.

He could not accept the Labourites' suggestion meanwhile to withdraw troops from Ireland, as the Government's responsibility for law and order was plain.

(Continued on page 5.)

THEATRE ROYAL.

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OVERSEAS STATESMEN.

THE SPEAKER'S WELCOME.

HONORS OF EMPIRE.

As joint presidents of the Empire Parliamentary Association, United Kingdom Branch, the Lord Chancellor (Lord Birkenhead) and the Speaker of the House of Commons (the Right Hon. J. W. Lowther) received a large number of home and overseas members in the new rooms of the association within the Palace of Westminster, on May 31st.

The Lord Chancellor, extending a welcome to the overseas members, said that it was a privilege to have in the history of the Empire when we should do something in our power to show gratitude to the Dominions it was now, after the events of the past four years. All had been deeply stirred by the most moving spectacle of the great self-governing Dominions leaping spontaneously to arms, and upholding the splendid military traditions of our race by deeds of valor which had never been exceeded, and seldom equalled, in our long history. (Cheers.) In the hope of affording to them opportunities for enlarged usefulness, the Empire Parliamentary Association offered a cordial welcome to the Dominion visitors. They hoped that those rooms might become known to members of overseas Parliaments staying in London as a club, a centre of social life, a small plot in the middle of this great city where they would always find welcome, and to which they could bring friends. Let their visits be more frequent, and the warmth of affection which united us today would grow as the years passed. (Cheers.)

WHERE HISTORY WAS MADE.

The Speaker, who joined in the welcome to the Overseas Statesmen, said:—It would have been impossible to find a site suitable for your purpose so rich in historic associations, in close proximity as it is to Westminster Hall. Many of the great historical events of the British Empire have taken place in that hall, which was built by William Rufus, and under its wonderful roof, dating from Richard I., which has stood for 300 years. Westminster Hall has many tragic memories of the trials of Kings and of Statesmen; in it the Seven Bishops were acquitted; and there is much else from the distant past that should be recalled. But within our own recollection events happened there of importance to the Dominions and to the world. It was in Westminster Hall in the year 1906 that we first received officially representatives of the French navy—(cheers)—on their visit to this country. The immediate result of the arrangements which were then made by Lord Lansdowne was the consummation of the *Entente* with France. (Cheers.) Very soon after that—I believe in the next year—we entertained at luncheon in Westminster Hall the Overseas Statesmen attending the Colonial Conference, and that was repeated on subsequent occasions.

This room itself reminds me of the British Constitution, for although its end walls are new, they have in place William Rufus. In the same way we have the old British Constitution, and added to it the new developments which have become necessary with growth of this Constitution and of the British Empire. Yet all welded together, each part supporting the other. (Cheers.) It is a happy union that we should find ourselves in such a room and on such an occasion. (Cheers, hear.)

The Empire Parliamentary Association existed to afford members of the British and the Dominion Parliaments opportunity to meet and discuss public affairs. It was, he believed, with the sole exception of the Imperial War Cabinet, the only actual body which existed between the Parliamentary bodies. Whether in the course of time it would extend into something greater, more important, and be the foundation of the first link in a stronger chain to bind the Motherland and the Dominions closer together, was a matter he would not discuss; but he thought it was probably present in the minds of most of them that that might ultimately be a result, and that might mean that day would lead to greater things. The new headquarters they hoped would become a means of disseminating information between the different Parliaments, and it was intended to continue these interesting meetings at which members from overseas had delivered lectures to members of the British Parliament upon problems that were agitating the minds of Dominion legislators. That was a branch of the work in which he anticipated considerable development. (Hear, hear.) He felt that it was good for all of them to have been present that day. (Cheers.)

BRITISH GOOD FEELING.

Sir George Foster, Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce, doubted if they of the Dominions came near to equalling the splendid spirit of hospitality and friendship which greeted overseas visitors to the United Kingdom. Their welcome guests in the Dominions were of a certain class; they, on their part, had sent back a million of the rank and file. (Loud cheers.) When that million of men returned home they would spread the story of the good feeling, the unqualified kindness, and the unequalled hospitality shown to them by the people of Great Britain. The Dominion representatives came today as guests. Perhaps, by and by, they would come as a little more than guests. A time might be some time when they would arrive to be welcomed not only as guests, but to confer as equals, and, it might be, to take a share in the governance of that great Empire which the Dominions had helped to defend. (Cheers.) A few days previously, he had watched the march through London of 15,000 soldiers, of whom the Dominions were rightly proud. (Cheers)—every man a citizen of the British Empire. They were but a phalanx out of a million men who had come from the uttermost ends of the earth to fight for the ideals which they loved, and for the Empire which embodied those ideals. Was it unreasonable if sometimes the thought arose in the minds of those men that they must ask, and must not be denied, a share in the government of the Empire they had aided? The Mother of Parliaments had proved worthy of their gratitude. In the future might she find perpetual

(Continued at foot of next column.)

NO MONTH MORE THAN 28

DAYS.

AMERICA'S DESIRE TO ALTER THE ALMANAC.

(BY J. W. T. MASON.)

New York. Having successfully commanded the sun to move ahead an hour in the spring and return to its original position in the autumn, to save sixty minutes of daylight per diem, Americans are now agitating for changes in the calendar to make it easier to compute the day on which any date falls from one to a million years in the future.

The present arrangement of the months is being criticised as cumbersome, unbalanced, and lopsided. The calendar is being attacked as a relic of the unscientific era in man's evolution, when people worked by rule of thumb and made all the unnecessary trouble for their descendants they possibly could. To restore the calendar to its rightful position as the servant of man, the Equal Month Calendar Association has been organized in Minneapolis, and is spreading its propaganda throughout the country.

A Bill to correct the calendar has been prepared for introduction in Congress. If the measure is adopted, the year 1922 will see the United States possessing thirteen months per annum thereafter instead of an inadequate twelve. But so much the reform alone that it is considered improbable Congress will take action unless the principal European countries join the movement simultaneously.

DAY LEFT OVER.

The Minneapolis agitation owes its start to the well-known fact that people are always having difficulty in reckoning the days in the future on which they wish to undertake any action. For instance, if somebody wants to do something on the 1st of next August, it is necessary to consult a calendar to find out that the day will be a Sunday, which fact will doubtless make a change in the date necessary.

The Equal Month Calendar Association would stop this by making all months exactly alike. Every month would consist of twenty-eight days. The first day of each month would always fall on a Monday and the last day on a Sunday.

But twelve months of twenty-eight days each account for only 336 days, twenty less than the year's total number. To take up the slack, the Equal Month Calendar Association wants a thirteenth month created. It is to be called "Liberty," and is to be inserted between February and March. "Liberty" is to have twenty-eight days like all the other months, leaving one day still out of the reckoning. It is proposed to attach this left-over day to no month at all. It is to be called simply "New Year's day," and is to be placed between the last day of December and the first day of January.

The last day of December will always be a Sunday, then will come "New Year's day," and the next day will be Monday, January 1st. Similarly, every fourth year provision is made for taking care of February 29th by placing a day, to be called "Correction-day," between Sunday, February 28th, and Monday, Liberty 1—Liberty being the name of the new month. (Daily Express.)

A NATIONAL ARMY.

GENERAL HORNE'S APPEAL.

The Duke of Portland presided on June 24th at the welcome-home dinner to Service members held by the London Faithful Association at F. Fraser's Restaurant, and, in proposing "The Imperial Forces," said the Highland soldiers had proved themselves sons who were worthy of their sires. The great tradition of the Highland regiments of the past had been enriched by the glorious deeds which they had performed in the war.

Sir Henry S. Horne, who commanded the First Army in France, responding, said Scotland had done extremely well. She had done more than her share in proportion to her population. She had produced more men, she had suffered more casualties, and, speaking without prejudice, he thought she had done better work. Referring to the 51st Highland Division, General Horne said the greatest honour they could claim was that they were Territorials. The ideal that animated the Territorials before the war was a very noble one, and also a very sagacious one. They did not receive very much encouragement before the war. They saved the situation in 1914 at Ypres, when the British Army was worn to shreds. "Let us have a National Army on Territorial lines," said General Horne. "Not an Army to go fighting abroad, but an Army that will enable us to train up our manhood so that it shall not be that the men of Britain shall stand out when the next call comes. Hundreds and thousands of lives were sacrificed because our men had not had the necessary preliminary training. One of the most difficult jobs commanders had was not to train our men, but to get trained officers, and that was where Territorial officers came to the front. They studied the profession of arms, and they supplied us to an enormous extent with what we wanted."

youth in the arms of the children whom she had nurtured, and who loved her. (Cheers.)

"Senator Pearce, Australian Minister of Defence, complained that in the Commonwealth they did not see enough of the members of the British Parliament. They of the Dominions felt that they knew Great Britain better than the Britisher knew the Dominions, which should not be. Could not the Empire Parliamentary Association so arrange matters that there should be two parties from the United Kingdom to visit the Dominions to every one party that came to England? If that were done, there would eventually be a Government in the United Kingdom which would know something of the Dominions for which they legislated. (Cheers and laughter.)

Sir Percy Fitzpatrick said that when federation was the burning question in South Africa, their Dutch colleagues, and General Smuts, above all others, had adhered to the view that they must avoid compromise and model themselves as closely as possible on the British Constitution, which experience proved had been adequate to their needs.

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TJIKINI	SHANGHAI	15th Aug.	15th Aug.	JAVA
TJIMANOEK	JAVA	18th Aug.	19th Sept.	JAVA
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SHANGHAI & SINGAPORE	"CHENAN"	On 12th Aug. 11 A.M.
SWATOW and BANGKOK	"KANCHOW"	On 12th Aug. 11 A.M.
SHANGHAI	"SINKIANG"	On 14th Aug. Noon.

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NAGUYA	26th August	28th Sept.	1st Oct.
KHIVA	23rd October	24th Nov.	4th Dec.

FOR BOMBAY VIA STRAITS & COLOMBO.

Steamer	Leave Hongkong about	Due Bombay about
DUNERA	7th Sept.	25th Sept.

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S.S.	Leave Hongkong about	Shanghai & Kobe
ITOLA	26th August	

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